

cityscene

What's happening in the City of Fairfax

MARCH 2019

To Live and Dine in Fairfax

FAIRFAX CITY
MARCH 3-9, 2019
RESTAURANT
WEEK



Fairfax City Restaurant Week will feature 23 venues this year, including 21 Great American Bistro.

When *Washingtonian* recently raved about the new Korean restaurant Meokja Meokja, it noted that the Fairfax City hot spot “separates itself from the pack” and that its 31-year-old owner Christopher Kim hit it out of the park by hiring talented staff, including chef Kwang Bum Lee. The place has been buzzing every night since.

“For anyone who’s eaten at one of our great restaurants, the review wasn’t surprising. Our city is small, but we have some terrific dining options,” says Chris Bruno, the city’s economic and development director. This month, residents of Fairfax City and foodies across the region will dive into Restaurant Week at 23 venues, featuring \$20 three-course lunches or \$35 three-course dinners. “What’s so different about our version of Restaurant Week is the variety of options — from casual spots to fine dining. And nearly all of the owners are local, so it’s great to come and support them.”

One city resident is Jinson Chan, owner of High Side, which recently celebrated its one-year anniversary. “Local residents and businesses have embraced us — it’s wonderful to

continued on page 6

City Survey

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE FAIRFAX CITY PARK?

More than 90 percent of city residents live within a half mile of a great park.
For this month’s quick social-media survey, we asked residents to name their favorite.



THIS MONTH IN FAIRFAX CITY

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CITY NEWS

Budget Review Continues; Community Outreach Meeting, March 5

Participate in a review of the proposed city budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The City Council is holding a community outreach during the March 5 work session — or use Connect2FairfaxCity.com to comment on the proposed budget (and any other item on the meeting agenda).

Check out the proposed budget on the city website: fairfaxva.gov/budget. Upcoming schedule:

March 5: Staff presentations, community outreach

March 12: Public hearing; consideration of real estate tax rate to be advertised

March 26: Public hearing; work session

April 2: Work session

April 9: Introduction of rates for commercial and industrial property tax, wastewater

April 23: Real estate tax rate public hearing; work session

May 8: Public hearing; budget adoption

Meetings and work sessions are held at the City Hall Annex and televised on City-screen-12. Schedule is subject to change. 703.385.7870

Spring Cleanup Month Includes Cleanup Day, Street Sweeping

The city spruces up, and provides special services in April for Spring Cleanup Month, which caps off Cleanup Day April 27. The city also sweeps residential streets on weekdays; look for signs announcing the date of the service in your neighborhood. Please refrain from street parking from 7 am to 3 pm on those days. 703.385.7995

Real Estate Tax Relief, Rent Relief Available

The City of Fairfax provides real estate tax relief and rent relief for senior citizens and city residents with permanent and total disabilities. Different types of relief are granted on a sliding-scale and based on income. Qualified homeowners may choose basic tax relief, tax deferral, tax freeze, or combination tax freeze and deferral.

Virginia offers a real estate tax exemption for the primary residence of certain disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. The veteran must be declared 100 percent service-connected and permanently and totally disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Rent relief is available for senior citizens or renters with permanent and total disabilities.

Applications are available from the Finance Department and must be submitted by April 15. 703.359.2486

Curbside Leaf Collection Provided Tuesdays in April

On Tuesdays in April, vacuum trucks will collect loose leaves raked to the curb in residential neighborhoods that receive city curbside refuse collection service. Please rake leaves to the curb by 7 am on collection days: April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. Bagged leaves are not collected in April. 703.385.7995

Animal Adoption, March 16

Find a new animal friend with the help of the City of Fairfax Animal Control and Animal Shelter.

The office holds animal adoption events on the third Saturday of the month. If you can't wait to adopt, visit the city website for information about animals currently available. On the home page, click How Do I, and choose "Adopt a Pet." Pet Supplies Plus, 11054 Lee Highway, 11 am-2 pm



Call for World War II Quilts

Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center will be installing an exhibition of World War II Quilts in April. If you have quilts from this era and would like to share the textiles for this exhibition, please contact Susan Gray, Susan.Gray@fairfaxva.gov, 703.385.8415

MARCH 18 TRANSIT DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY

CUE Bus patrons, have you had a great experience on the CUE Bus? Is your daily commute improved by a favorite driver? Tell the city all about it: Email us at WeCare@FairfaxVa.gov, tweet us at @CityofFFXCUE, mention on Facebook at @CityofFairfaxVA or send/drop a note by the Transportation Office, Room 200 in the City Hall Annex. Or simply give your driver a smile or a thanks when you ride. If possible, share your compliments before March 18, so your drivers receive that special appreciation on Transit Driver Appreciation Day. Naturally, you can share your appreciation any day of the year. Cuebus.org, 703.385.7859

Use E-Cycling, Document Shredding, Hazardous Waste Disposal Services

Dispose of electronics and household hazardous waste safely for free at the I-66 Transfer Station (4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax; Mon.-Sat, 8 am-4 pm; Sun., 9 am-4 pm)

City residents are also invited to use Fairfax County's monthly secure document shredding. The next event will be held March 23, 7-11 am, at North County Human Services (1850 Cameron Glen Dr., Reston). 703.324.5230



Fairfax Elementary School, 1932

Built in 1873, the venue was the first brick public school in Fairfax County and was built for \$2,750. On July 4, 1992, it became the Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center (10209 Main St.), where you'll find a rich array of artifacts and photos of the city to this day.

Meet Erin Schaible, the New Chief of Police

HOMETOWN McLean, Va.

SCHOOL O'Connell, Virginia Tech (undergrad), George Mason (grad school)

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Oldest of four, father is retired Secret Service agent, brothers work for Los Angeles Police Department and Orange County (Calif.) Sheriff's Department

CAREER 28 years, Fairfax County Police Department; roles included deputy chief; major, resource-management bureau; captain, organized crime and narcotics



Erin Schaible has a long list of things she's excited about in her new role. But she says one item near the top is working with other agency leaders to keep Fairfax City a great place to live, work and visit. The new police chief says she already knows the city well, having worked for 28 years for Fairfax County Police and having attended George Mason University to earn her master's degree in public administration.

Law enforcement was a natural choice for Schaible, since most of her family wears, or has worn, a badge — including her father, who was in the Oakland, Calif., police department before joining the Secret Service. "Law enforcement was always a really positive and exciting topic in our family," says Schaible, who, during her time with the county police, held a number of critical roles, including working with young people in schools. "I did a lot of work with the courts and the schools to revamp how we handle young people who commit low-level, nonviolent crimes. It's so important to teach young people about making good decisions and the consequences of their actions."

The new chief also knows one of the cornerstones of any department is building community connections, which is another one of her strengths. "I enjoy getting to know community members and helping them make their neighborhoods great places to live. It's definitely a team effort, and I really enjoy communities that are engaged and actively involved in improving their neighborhoods."



5 MINUTES WITH ...

ANDREW VITA CITY OF FAIRFAX FIRE DEPARTMENT



DID YOU KNOW?

Assistant Chief of Operations Andrew Vita says the fire department offers a wealth of free safety services for residents, including:

SMOKE ALARM INSPECTION/INSTALLATION. More than 38 percent of home fire deaths result from fires where there were no smoke alarms. Our fire department provides smoke-alarm inspections and installations for city residents.

STOP THE BLEED. A person who is bleeding can die from blood loss within five minutes. Vita says his team has partnered with the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department to provide the Stop the Bleed curriculum to city residents and employees.

CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSPECTIONS. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported that, among 3,500 child-restraint systems, 72 percent are used improperly. To reduce the risk of injury to children involved in a motor vehicle collision, the city's fire department offers free child safety seat inspections and training for residents.

Assistant Chief of Operations Andrew Vita was recently selected for the Fire Service Executive Development Institute — a yearlong program to provide new and aspiring chiefs with the tools they need to have a successful and productive tenure. We asked Vita for his take on his job and the community.

How long have you been with the department? I started with the City of Fairfax as a temporary firefighter in the summer of 1994; I was hired full-time in 1996.

What's the big picture of your role? I'm responsible for fire and EMS operational policies and emergency response. I also oversee the members who manage everything from our safety to equipment to the budget.

What do you love about working here? The City of Fairfax Fire Department

is a special place because it's truly a family. The men and women of the department come to work with one mission: taking care of people.

How does this mission take shape in the city? There are literally hundreds of stories. For example, an elderly resident recently was having chest pains while shoveling snow and was transported to the hospital; when he returned home, his driveway had already been shoveled — our crew had finished the job.

What are your favorite community activities? The Fill the Boot campaign, where we team with the Muscular Dystrophy Association to collect money; I also love the Fourth of July and Fall Festival celebrations, where our team of men and women are front and center and get to interact with families.

MORE INFO: 703.385.7940

BY THE NUMBERS

Composting

Fairfax City recently introduced a new composting program. Think it's not a big deal to compost your table scraps? When organic materials are composted, they're recycled into nutrient-rich compost to grow and nourish new life, instead of creating toxins that pollute our air and water like they do in landfills. Consider these numbers. **For more information about Fairfax City's new program, visit fairfaxva.gov/composting.**

25

Percentage of our household waste that is organic and can be composted

300+

Number of Fairfax City households that are already participating in the composting program

13

Tons of food scraps that have been diverted from the waste system since the program launched last fall (averaging 9 pounds per participant each week)

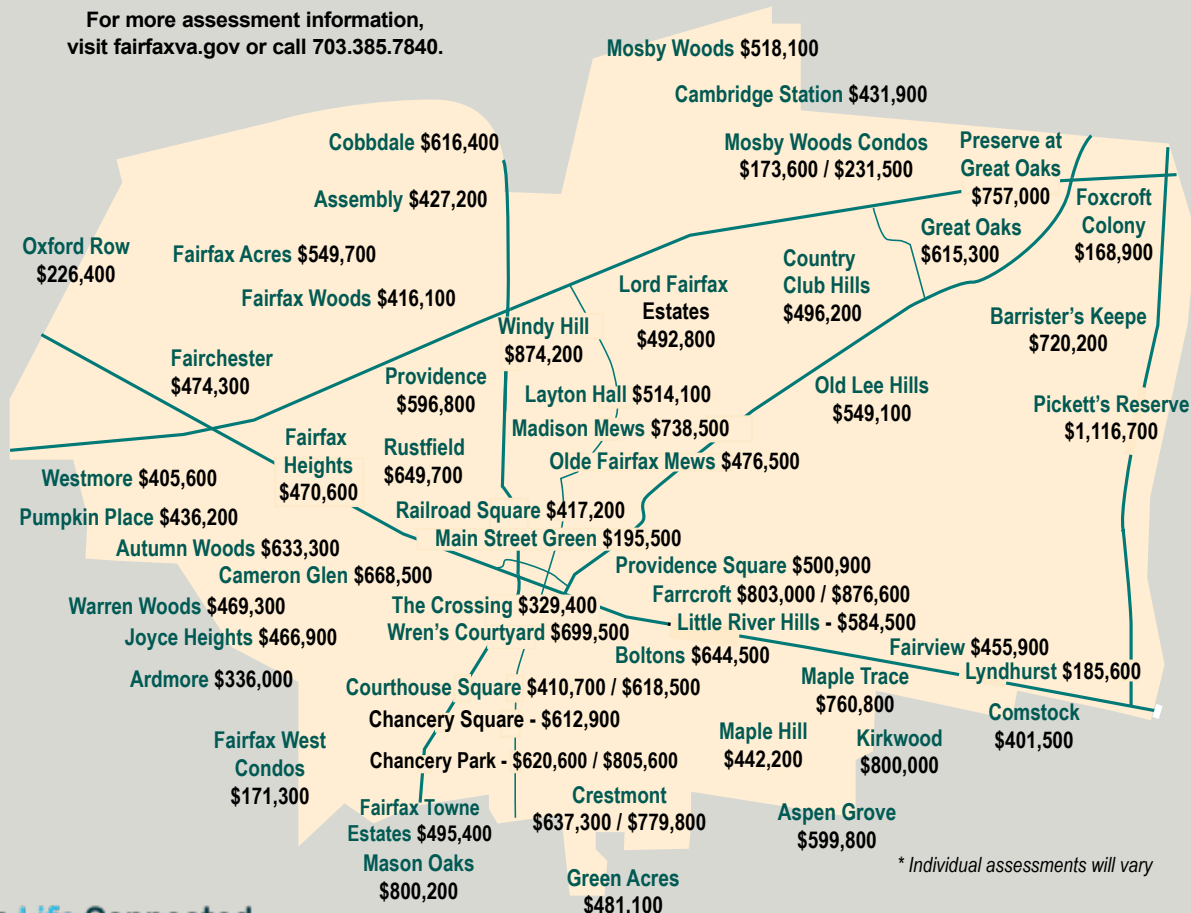
5,000

Number of compostable bags used since the program started four months ago

2019 PROJECTED REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENTS*

For more assessment information, visit fairfaxva.gov or call 703.385.7840.

In 2019, city real property values will increase an average of 0.7 percent. Real estate assessments will be mailed in March. On average, residential assessments will increase 0.8 percent and commercial assessment will increase 0.4 percent. Residential assessments account for two-thirds of all city assessments. Real estate tax revenues are central to the city's budget. The City Council sets the tax rate during the budget process, which determines the amount of real estate taxes paid.



* Individual assessments will vary

Gardens in Flight

OVER THE CHILLY VIRGINIA WINTER, Old Lee Hills resident Janet Jaworski admits parts of her kitchen look like a greenhouse; she's busy germinating seeds for her backyard butterfly garden, which is an official Monarch Waystation. Visit her yard from May through October, and it's a vibrant playground of color and activity. "Eastern monarchs migrate every fall from as far as Canada to the oyamel fir forests in Northern Mexico," says Jaworski, who has lived with her family in the city for nearly 20 years. "Monarchs pass through our area in late September and early October on their way to Texas before funneling into Mexico."

Jaworski also notes that, last spring, Fairfax became the first city in the Commonwealth to make a commitment to the preservation of the monarch: Mayor David Meyer signed the Mayors Monarch Pledge — an effort sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation — to help protect and increase habitat for pollinators on public property.

Naturally, the pledge encourages homeowners



ers to do the same. Jaworski says the benefits to our local environment are tremendous, but then there's another intangible: it's fun. Figuring out what to plant to attract butterflies and other winged creatures has become her passion. "Even though our original intent was to attract butterflies, we have found that our yard attracts many more bees and birds than before we had a butterfly garden." And that has made her patch of back yard a little slice of suburban paradise. **For more info, monarchwatch.org/waystations**



Start Your Own Waystation

Launching a butterfly waystation in the city is easy — and doesn't require a big space or even a yard. Janet Jaworski shares the basics:

First steps: Find a sunny spot (most plants need full sun); prep the soil (buy great garden soil in bulk); provide a water source (a small birdbath or clay saucer filled with water); go pesticide-free in the garden area.

What to plant: Common milkweed, swamp milkweed or butterfly weed (these are essential for butterflies, as milkweed is the only host plant for the monarch caterpillar). Good nectar plants for our area are perennials like purple coneflower, coreopsis, bee balm, aster and goldenrod, and annuals like Mexican sunflower and zinnia.

GEORGE MASON—FAIRFAX CITY CONNECTION

Mason Becomes Center of Dance Universe in March

THERE'S NOTHING SHY about Mason's Director of Dance Susan Shields, especially when it comes to her nationally renowned program. She's a booster for the art and the artists themselves, who perform works by some of the best choreographers in the world during the Mason Dance Gala Concert (March 29-30) at the Center for the Arts. "This year, we have work by Nacho Duato, Andonis Foniadakis and Lucinda Childs. These are internationally acclaimed choreographers, and we are enormously proud to be granted permission to perform their work," says Shields, who has lived in Fairfax City for 15 years and has been at Mason for 23.

For city residents who don't have modern dance on their cultural radar, Shields has some advice: give it a shot. "You'll be amazed at the level of dancing that's happening right in your own neighborhood," she says. "If watching dance makes you feel nervous



because you can't quite figure it out, don't worry — come to our pre-performance discussion led by a dance-faculty member, who will give you insights about the work you are about to see. These dancers aren't students — they truly are the young artists of our time, and we want to expose and educate our audiences to take pride in what's happening right here in your hometown." **For tickets, dance.gmu.edu/dance-gala-concert**

The Magnet

Susan Shields says she travels throughout the fall to select Mason dancers, and 85 percent come from out of state. "Wherever I go, people are familiar with our program. Our students join us from the most prestigious performing arts schools and studios, and they come from places like Los Angeles, Boston, Chicago, Miami, St. Louis, Houston, Birmingham and even Mexico."

From Tinkering to Innovation

SOME PEOPLE LOOK AT TV's wildly popular *American Ninja Warriors* as pure physical entertainment. But Daniels Run Elementary School teacher Vicky Reidenbaugh and her students see the show as scientific inspiration. Two years ago, Reidenbaugh was talking with her students during snack time about the TV show, and she quickly had an idea: Why not let the kids think about shapes as they solve engineering problems while creating their own mini obstacles?

That idea has grown into the school's Innovation Space, a way to teach kids using project-based learning. The concept is simple: Present a project to a student, and he or she comes up with a series of solutions — often involving math and engineering problems. It's tinkering with an end game in mind.

"The space allows students to become design engineers who build the desks of the future or graphic designers who create websites about endangered species," says Reidenbaugh. "Right now, our innovators are stepping into the role of electrical engineers to discover how cir-



cuits work to power everything from LED lights to computers. Students know when they come here they take full ownership of their learning. They're able to take the content from their classrooms and do something impactful with it."

Innovation Space wouldn't exist without supplemental funding from the city, which also funds similar programs at Providence Elementary, where every student works in a STEAM Lab (science, technology, engineering, art and math). At Lanier Middle School, its Maker-space mirrors a movement that allows students to be innovative, independent and technologically savvy.

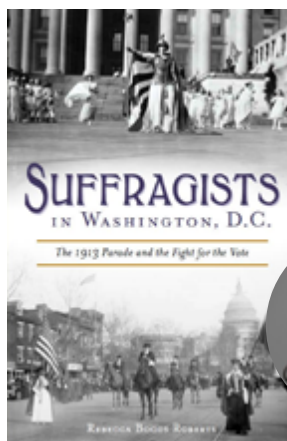


HISTORIC RESOURCES: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's Roar

ASK AUTHOR REBECCA BOGGS ROBERTS about one of the most important days in American history, and she'll mention a date that's obscure to most people: March 3, 1913 — the first March on Washington. The day before Woodrow Wilson's inaugural, more than 5,000 women marched down Pennsylvania Avenue to demand the right to vote. "It was a march for civil rights, designed specifically to occupy the symbolic space between the Capitol and the White House — something that had never been done before," says Roberts, who is the daughter of political-media stars Cokie and Steve Roberts. "It was also the turning point in a long, slow fight for voting rights, and signaled the beginning of the final stretch of the race to pass the 19th amendment."

As part of a stirring program presented by Fairfax City's Historic Resources and the city's Commission for Women, Roberts will come to City Hall on March 10 to discuss this seminal event and her book, *Suffragists in Washington*,



D.C., as well as sign copies. "We may think we know the story of how women got the vote, but a lot of the history is untaught or glossed over," says Roberts. "The real story is more intense, maddening, impressive and hilarious than most people know. You can expect to hear the truth in all its twists and turns, as well as see incredible photos from the march and the last seven years of the movement." **March 10, 2-4 pm, free**



Live and Dine

continued from page 1

be part of such a loving community," he says. "The restaurant scene in Fairfax City is growing and getting more diverse. There's no doubt the city will grow into a dining destination, because talented chefs and modern restaurateurs will seize the opportunity to start their restaurant in the area."

This year, patrons can expect a new theme every night with a lineup that includes everything from Mason Monday (special menu discounts for those wearing Mason gear or show Mason ID) to drink pairings (special offers on menu items and cocktails). **Lineup of participating restaurants and themes, fairfaxcityrestaurantweek.com**

community Calendar

MARCH 2019

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

City Government Information 703.385.7850
 Arts and Cultural Events 703.352.ARTS
 City of Fairfax Regional Library 703.293.6227
 Civil War Interpretive Center 703.591.0560
 Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center 703.385.8414
 George Mason University Events 703.993.1000

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Visit fairfaxva.gov for late-breaking news and event information.		 <p>Watch live and taped proceedings of City Council meetings or read reports of meetings by visiting fairfaxva.gov and clicking this icon on the home page.</p>	 <p>For a full Cityscreen-12 schedule, visit fairfaxva.gov and click on "Services"</p>		<p>1</p> <p>2018 Business Recycling Reports due</p> <p>BINGO, 7 pm, Fire Station 3*</p>	2
3 Exhibit: The Washington Home of the Philippine Suffrage Movement (through 3/31)	4 Funday Monday, 10:30 am, Old Town Hall School Board meeting, 7:30 pm, City Hall Annex	5 City Council work session and budget community outreach, 7 pm, City Hall Annex	6 Economic Development Authority meeting, 6 pm (location to be announced) Board of Architectural Review meeting, 7 pm, City Hall Annex Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting, 7 pm, Historic Blenheim	7 City of Fairfax Democratic Committee meeting, 7:30 pm, City Hall Annex	8 BINGO, 7 pm, Fire Station 3* Old Town Hall Performance Series 8 pm, Old Town Hall	9
Fairfax City Restaurant Week						
10 Suffragists in Washington, D.C.: The 1913 Parade and the Fight for the Vote, 2 pm, City Hall Annex	11 Funday Monday, 10:30 am, Old Town Hall Planning Commission meeting, 7 pm, City Hall Annex	12 Applications due for boards and commissions — see page 8 City Council meeting, 7 pm, City Hall Annex [CC]	13 Fairfax City Women Business Owners' Luncheon, noon to 2 pm, Sherwood Center Historic Fairfax City, Inc., board meeting, 7 pm, Historic Blenheim	14 Friday Morning Music Club, noon, Old Town Hall Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting, 7 pm, City Hall	15 BINGO, 7pm, Fire Station 3*	16 Animal Adoption Event, 11 am to 2 pm, Pet Supplies Plus, 11054 Lee Highway City of Fairfax Band Goes Hollywood, 7:30 pm, Fairfax High School
17	18 Funday Monday, 10:30 am, Old Town Hall Transit Driver Appreciation Day School Board work session, 7:30 pm, Fairfax High School	19 Commission on the Arts meeting, 7 pm, Sherwood Center Commission for Women, 7 pm, City Hall	20 Board of Architectural Review meeting, 7 pm, City Hall Annex Fairfax Citizens for Smarter Growth, 7 pm, City of Fairfax Regional Library	21	22 Sherwood Family Movie Night, 7 pm, Sherwood Center BINGO, 7 pm, Fire Station 3* Old Town Hall Performance Series 8 pm, Old Town Hall	23 A Cruel Life in an Uncivil Time: Julia Wilbur's Struggle for Freedom, 2 pm, Historic Blenheim Young at Heart Appraisal Event, 10 am to 12:30 pm, Sherwood Center
24 31 Children's Used Book Sale, 1-3 pm, City of Fairfax Regional Library	25 Funday Monday, 10:30 am, Old Town Hall Planning Commission meeting, 7 pm, City Hall Annex	26 City Council meeting, 7 pm, City Hall Annex [CC]	27	28 Fall for the Book Pop Up Lit Night - March Murder, 7:30 pm, Old Town Hall	29 BINGO, 7 pm, Fire Station 3*	30 Children's Used Book Sale, 10 am to 3 pm, City of Fairfax Regional Library

*Bingo benefits the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department
 Calendar information is subject to last-minute change.

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- Braille

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Cityscene is available in large print, Braille, and audio upon request.

Para solicitar ayuda con servicios de la ciudad o preguntas sobre esta publicación, por favor llame al 703-385-7800.

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WHY I VOLUNTEER

KELLY HERMAN

COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

Years in Fairfax City: 3

Years on the commission: 3

Why she volunteers: "It allows me to connect to the community through the arts in a positive and lasting way. This is particularly evident in the grants we're able to provide with the generous assistance of the city."

Favorite cultural program in the city: "The Old Town Hall Performance series, because it brings such diverse performers — and best of all, it's free."

Why she loves Fairfax City: "I love living here because of our commitment to the arts. I also love the residents and how this is such a welcoming community."

Want to volunteer for a board or commission?

There is currently one vacancy on the Commission on the Arts (non-resident). Other vacancies include: Board of Equalization (one vacancy), Environmental Sustainability (one vacancy), Historic Fairfax City (one vacancy), Human Services Committee (two vacancies), Planning Commission (one vacancy), Fairfax Area Disability Services Board (one vacancy) and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (one vacancy). Unless otherwise noted, applicants must have lived in the city for at least one year and be a registered voter at their current address. To apply, visit fairfaxva.gov, click on "Residents" and navigate to "Volunteer Opportunities," or call 703.385.7935. Deadline, March 12

March

CULTURAL CALENDAR

Suffrage Movement Exhibit, March 3-31

Visit the Fairfax Museum for the traveling exhibit from the Philippines on the Potomac project. "Washington Home of the Philippine Suffrage Movement" highlights leaders of the Philippine suffrage movement and their ties to Washington, D.C., including work with Carrie Chapman Catt and American leaders who fought for women's right to vote. Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., 9 am-5 pm daily (excluding holidays), 703.385.8414

Old Town Hall Performance Series, March 8, 22

Classical guitarist William Feasley is part of this series March 8, and the Nitehawks Swing band will rock the house March 22. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Dr., 8 pm, free, fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts, 703.352.ARTS

Family Movie Night, March 22

This is a perfect family date night — watch Hotel Transylvania 2. Participants may bring their own snacks, and the Fairfax nonprofit Britepaths will accept food donations during the event (check with the staff at the Sherwood Center for a list of acceptable items). Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy., 7 pm, 703.385.7858

Free History Lecture, March 23

Author Paula Tarnapol Whitacre uses Julia Wilbur's diaries and historical documents to tell the story of the 47-year-old abolitionist who moved from New York to Alexandria, Va., in 1862 to assist escaped slaves and Union soldiers. The lecture, "A Cruel Life in and Uncivil Time: Julia Wilbur's Struggle," will make for a great Sunday afternoon. A book sale and signing will follow. Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Hwy, 2 pm, free, 703.591.0560

Senior Center Appraisal Event, March 23

Ever wonder if the painting you bought at a flea market is worth a fortune? Now is your chance to get the lowdown. Get verbal appraisals from a certified appraiser on jewelry, furniture, clocks, coins and more at the Young at Heart Appraisal Event. Proceeds benefit the Young at Heart Senior Center. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy., 10 am-12:30 pm, \$5 admission, \$5 per appraisal (limit four items), 703.273.6090